

Ex. #64

Doc. No. 232

(From the declaration made by the Soviet Government to the Government of Japan on August 8, 1945, the "Pravda" August 9, 1945.)

DECLARATION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

On August 8, V.M. Molotov, the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, received Mr. SATO, the Japanese Ambassador, and on behalf of the Soviet Government made the following statement to him to be communicated to the Government of Japan:

"After the rout and capitulation of the Hitlerite Germany, Japan is the only great power which is still for the continuation of the war.

"The demand of the unconditional surrender of the Japanese Armed Forces made by the Three Powers - the United States of America, Great Britain and China - on July 26, this year was declined by Japan. Thus the proposal made by the Japanese Government to the Soviet Union containing the request of mediation in the war in the Far East loses all ground.

"Taking into consideration the fact that Japan refused to surrender, the Allied Powers made a proposal to the Soviet Government to join the war against the Japanese aggression and thus to shorten the period of time necessary to end the war, to reduce the number of victims, and to contribute to the speedy restoration of peace in the world. True to the allied cause, the Soviet Government accepted the proposal made by the Allied Powers and joined the declaration of the Allied Powers made on July 26, this year.

"The Soviet Government believes that such a policy of its is the only way to bring nearer the advent of peace, to free the nations from further sacrifices and sufferings, and to give a chance to the Japanese people to avoid those dangers and damages, which were suffered by Germany, after she had declined the unconditional capitulation. On the basis of the above said, the Soviet Government declares, that from tomorrow, i.e., August 9, the Soviet Union will consider herself to be in a state of war against Japan. August 8, 1945"

V.M. Molotov also told Mr. SATO that simultaneously the Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo, Y. A. Malik, would hand the present declaration of the Soviet Government to the Japanese Government.

Mr. SATO, the Japanese Ambassador, promised to communicate the declaration of the Soviet Government to the Japanese Government.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF  
EXCERPTS OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT

I. V. TARKHOV, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages; and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated excerpts of the above Document.

(Sgd) V. Tarkhov